

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings.

As explained in the present specification in the first full paragraph on page 7, the elastomeric sleeve 22 projects by a predetermined length from the connecting terminal side of the plug cover 16 when the plug shell 21 has been wrapped with the sleeve 22 and arranged inside the plug cover 16. the elasticity of this projecting portion secures the engaging pieces in the grooves in the projection piece when the terminal portion is inserted into the jack.

This feature of the present invention is shown at 22 in Fig. 4.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all positively recited elements are clearly shown in the drawings.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objections to claim 2 as containing informalities.

Claim 2 has been amended hereby to overcome the objection raised by the Examiner and to rendered the claim more clear and definite.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103, as being unpatentable over Giffin in view of Gong et al.

The present invention is intended to provide a plug attaching mechanism that employs three primary elements. Principally, as shown in Fig, 2, the plug shell 21 has a rubber sleeve 22 wrapped there around and the plug shell and sleeve are then inserted into the plug cover 16. The plug cover 16 is provided with two projecting portions 23 and each projecting portion has an L-shaped engaging groove 26 formed therein. In attaching the plug to the jack the projecting portions 23 fit into concave portions 24a and 24b of an attachment plate 24. Furthermore, engaging pieces 25 formed on the concave portions 24a and 24b fit into the L-shaped engagements grooves 26 of the projecting portions 23.

The claims has been amended hereby to emphasis the above-noted features of the present invention.

Giffin relates to a jacket for placing around two ends of an extension cord, for example, so as to render the connection of weather proof. Specifically, the part of the housing covering the plug P in Fig. 2 includes housing halves 5a and 5b that contain the plug and the cord when fitted together. The plug end of the housing halves is provided with a prong 65 having a lip 68 as well as a prong receiving channel 75. In this way the two housing halves mate with the female end of the electrical connection.

Gong et al relates to a barcode reader having a locking cable connector and, as shown in Fig. 2, employs a cable 20

with a flexible strain relief portion 26 that is connected mechanically to the connector body 28 that has the male connector 29 arranged thereon.

It is respectfully submitted upon combining Gong et al with Giffin that the present invention would not have been rendered obvious, because this would simply provide a flexible strain relief to the cable C1 of Giffin.

It is respectfully submitted that Giffin does not disclose the rubber sleeve around the plug shell, assuming plug P is the plug shell then the housing halves correspond to the plug cover 16 of the present invention, and there is no suggestion of the use of an elastomeric sleeve wrapped around the plug shell for insertion into the plug cover. Adding Gong et al, would simply provide a flexible strain relief for the cord C1 that exits the housing halves.

Moreover, the housing halves of Giffin are connected to each other using the prong 65 and the prong receiving channels 75. There is no suggestion in Giffin of the use of the L-shaped engaging grooves formed in the projecting portions

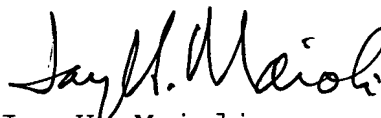
Furthermore, since Giffin and Gong et al fail to suggest the use of the elastomeric sleeve wrapped around the plug shell, the combination of the references would than fail to suggest providing the sleeve with a protruding portion that protrudes from the plug cover, which would be the housing halves of Giffin.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a plug attaching mechanism, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over the typed name.

Jay H. Maioli
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JHM:cr